



Department of Defense

Voting Information News

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Voting Assistance Officers

“To Do” This Month:

☑ Post voting and election information, including this newsletter and the voting news releases on bulletin boards and in unit/installation/ship newspapers to ensure that everyone receives election information in a timely manner.

☑ Take an inventory to ensure you have adequate supplies of the absentee voting materials (e.g., FPCAs, FWABs), then distribute to all that you assist (including family members). One of the best ways to distribute these materials is to conduct local voting information sessions or training workshops.

☑ Plan to participate in one of the training workshops conducted by the FVAP in or near your area. The workshop schedule is available from your Service Voting Action Officer. See article on this page.

(continued on next page)

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

ATTEND A VOTING WORKSHOP

You might have heard about a voting workshop to be held at your installation or post. Why do we have these? What are they all about?

Per DoD Directive 1000.4, the Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, USD (P&R), shall establish and maintain a DoD Voting Assistance Program to cover all eligible voters of the Department of Defense (military and civilian) and other citizens such as those located overseas. Further, under this Program, the USD (P&R) shall conduct Voting Assistance Workshops during even-numbered years worldwide.

The purpose of holding voting workshops is to publicize the right of citizens to participate in the electoral process anywhere in the world. It also serves to educate military members, dependents and overseas citizens about the absentee voting process.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) coordinates workshops with Installation Voting Assistance Officers, Department of State Voting Assistance Officers or other designees such as overseas citizen organizations.

Per DoD Directive 1000.4, components shall train all Service members (including National Guard and Reserve personnel) on absentee registration and voting procedures during years of elections for Federal offices. Further it requires major command, Installation and Unit Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) attend a FVAP Voting Assistance Workshop during even-numbered years with elections for Federal offices.

FVAP coordinates workshops with Service Voting Action Officers prior to

the even-numbered year. If the installation is not scheduled to receive FVAP workshop training, VAOs should attend training a nearby facility. VAOs at remote locations can access the FVAP website for training or request the training on CD from FVAP. Document the training for personnel records and inspections.

Voting workshops cover:

- the organizational structure of the Voting Program,
- the Program's mission,
- how to register to vote using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76,
- how to use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), SF-186,
- returning ballot materials by mail or electronically,
- the FVAP's Ombudsman service,
- the DoD Voting Information Center and
- useful FVAP publications.

Although primarily for VAOs, workshops are open to any interested persons. Contact your Installation or Embassy/Consulate Voting Assistance Officer to see whether there is a voting workshop scheduled in your area. FVAP holds workshops every month for those in the Washington, DC area.

Several upcoming workshops:

5/3 McDill AFB
5/5 NAS Pensacola
5/6 Ft. Benning
5/8 Ft. Rucker via VTC
5/10 Ft. Stewart
5/12 Ft. Jackson☑

Share your best practices! Send your best practice(s), novel ideas and lessons learned to your Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer.
(contact information on page 3)

"To Do" This Month

(continued):

☑ Ensure that people know how to get in touch with you for voting assistance. Provide the installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone operator your name and contact information to refer callers requiring voting assistance.

☑ Display the Election Calendar and Motivational Voting Posters in highly visible locations to remind people to register and vote. Provide contact information on posters to allow people with voting questions to reach you for assistance.

☑ Visit the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov frequently for information and resources as well as links to other sites related to voting.

NOTE: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS – LOOK FOR YOUR STATE'S PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

We are heading into the primary season of this election year. The 2006 elections officially began with the primaries in Texas on March 7 and in Illinois on March 21. Between May and September, most of the state primaries will take place as follows:

STATE PRIMARIES BY MONTH

MAY

Indiana - May 2
North Carolina - May 2
Ohio - May 2
Nebraska - May 9
West Virginia - May 9
Kentucky - May 16
Oregon - May 16
Pennsylvania - May 16
Arkansas - May 23
Idaho - May 23

JUNE

Alabama - June 6
California - June 6
Iowa - June 6
Mississippi - June 6
Montana - June 6
New Jersey - June 6
New Mexico - June 6
South Dakota - June 6
Maine - June 13
North Dakota - June 13
South Carolina - June 13
Virginia - June 13
Utah - June 27

JULY

Georgia - July 18
Oklahoma - July 25

AUGUST

Kansas - August 1
Tennessee - August 3
Colorado - August 8
Connecticut - August 8
Michigan - August 8
Missouri - August 8
Nevada - August 15
Alaska - August 22
Wyoming - August 22

SEPTEMBER

Guam - September 2
Florida - September 5
Virgin Islands - September 11
Arizona - September 12
Delaware - September 12
District of Columbia - September 12
Maryland - September 12
Minnesota - September 12
New Hampshire - September 12
New York - September 12
Rhode Island - September 12
Vermont - September 12
Wisconsin - September 12
Massachusetts - September 19
Washington - September 19
Hawaii - September 23

OCTOBER

No Primaries Scheduled

NOVEMBER

Louisiana - November 7

Primary elections play an important role in the electoral process because the names that appear on the general election ballot on November 7th are the candidates that were chosen during the primary election process.

Voters in state primaries select their party's candidates for state and federal offices such as Governor, U.S. Senator, and member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Voter participation is crucial in any election and primaries are no different. Because dates for state primaries are spread throughout the year, be sure to consult the 2006 Election Calendar for election dates in your state.

These election dates can be found on the Election Dates poster which can be ordered through your normal supply channels. The calendar is also available in Appendix C of the 2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) and is updated on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov ☑

PENNSYLVANIA SUPPORTS MILITARY VOTING

The following is a letter from the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth. It is reproduced here so that Voting Assistance Officers can spread this information to Pennsylvania military voters in their units. The full text of this letter can be found on the Pennsylvania state voting website at <http://www.votespa.com/>. Look under Quick Links at the right hand side of the screen.

Dear Pennsylvania National Guard member:

We are writing this letter to inform you that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense, has undertaken the task of notifying all of Pennsylvania's military electors of their right to vote in the upcoming May 16, 2006 Primary Election.

It is critically important that all of Pennsylvania's citizens are afforded their right to vote, especially those citizens who have dedicated themselves to defending our nation. To that end, you will see below information regarding your right to vote and procedures for requesting and obtaining an official absentee ballot. Please read the information carefully.

We have also attached a file containing an application for an absentee ballot. If you are registered to vote, print and complete this application and fax AND mail it to the board of elections of the county where you are registered. You will find a list of fax numbers and mailing addresses below. **YOU MUST BOTH FAX AND MAIL THE APPLICATION.** An absentee ballot will be mailed to you promptly upon receipt of the fax, but your ballot will not be counted unless the **original** paper application is received by your county board of elections by Election Day. Please remember that your absentee ballot must be received by your county board of elections by **Friday, May 12, 2006.**

We hope this information is helpful and please allow us to extend our personal gratitude to each of you for the sacrifices you have made on our nation's behalf.

Major General Jessica L. Wright
Adjutant General of Pennsylvania

Pedro A. Cortés
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** votinginfo@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Ms. Linda Hoover, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** votinginfo@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532, **Email:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT Dwight H. Isaacs **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),
fax: (901) 874-6825, **DSN fax:** 882-6825,
Email: vote@navy.mil, <http://www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html>

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 565-5000, **toll free:** 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), **DSN** 665-5000; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
Email: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

U.S. Marine Corps: Mr. David E. James **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511; **fax:** (703) 784-9823,
DSN fax: 278-9823; **Email:** david.e.james@usmc.mil
https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting

U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Dan Owen **tel:** (202)-267-1709, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
Email: downen@comdt.uscg.mil,
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX
(703) 696-1352
DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER (VIC):
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP
staff member):
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

*Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.*

EMAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or suggestions on
this newsletter are welcome.

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

FPCAS AND FWABS NOW IN STOCK

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs), SF-76, and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs), SF-186, are now available for you to order. You can find ordering instructions in the March 2006 VIN.

Maintaining an adequate supply of voting materials is an essential function of every Voting Assistance Officer. The FVAP recommends stocking 4 FPCAs and 1 FWAB for every voter, including family members.

These forms can also be obtained online at www.fvap.gov ☑

UPCOMING EVENTS

**GET READY FOR THESE
UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**OVERSEAS CITIZENS VOTERS
WEEK, JULY 2-8, 2006**

**ARMED FORCES VOTERS
WEEK, SEPTEMBER 3-9, 2006**

**ABSENTEE VOTERS WEEK,
OCTOBER 8-14, 2006**

START PLANNING NOW!

**THIS ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO
VOTE!**

**CHECK YOUR CONTINUITY
FOLDER FOR WHAT'S BEEN
DONE IN THE PAST. ☑**

Moving? Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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